

THE COLORADO RIVER

This 233-mile stretch of the Colorado River has become a year-round recreation area for power boaters, paddlers, water-skiers and fishermen. To enjoy a safe trip on the Colorado, boaters need to become familiar with the characteristics of the area that make boating on this desert waterway unique.

The state lines of California, Nevada and Arizona intersect in the Colorado River area. While many boating laws are the same in each state, a few laws differ and can be confusing to boaters. Refer to the KNOW THE LAW chart, which displays common boating laws and demystifies the differences in laws between each state.

The California Department of Boating and Waterways, Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Nevada Department of Wildlife teamed up to publish this Boating Safety Guide to provide basic information which will assist you in planning a safe and enjoyable trip on the Colorado River.

Every year, many people are injured or killed as a result of operator inattention, boating under the influence, illegal skiing practices, and traveling at excessive speeds often at night, in congested waters, or around blind curves in the river.

Operator inexperience is another problem in the region. Boaters often do not know the proper action to take when approaching other boaters in crossing or head-on situations. This is especially important on this congested waterway.

Another dangerous practice is bow riding, which is both unsafe and illegal. Passengers riding on the front of a boat can be killed or severely injured by a boat's propeller if they fall, slip or are thrown into the water. The law restricts riding on the bow, gunwale or transom of a powerboat where there is no protective railing or other deterrent to falling overboard or if riding on the bow is an obvious danger.

Make sure you enjoy your trip to the Colorado River. Remember if it's your boat, it's your responsibility so become familiar with the laws and characteristics of the area.

You should also take a boating safety course. Taking a course will help you keep everyone safe, help you avoid a citation, and possibly even get you a discount on your boat insurance. For more information on safe boating visit BoatColoradoRiver.com.

